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Title: Need to release funds for relief and rehabilitation of the people affected by the recent floods in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Sir, Tamil Nadu was affected by the recent 'Nisha' cyclone following unprecedented heavy and intermittent rains. Districts like Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore are badly affected. Chennai, Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Karur, Ariyalur, Kanchi and Thiruvallur districts were also affected considerably.

Nearly 1600 villages were submerged in flood waters. Standing paddy crops on nearly five lakh hectares and three lakh hectares of other crops were damaged. Also, nearly 200 lives were lost and about 25 lakh people were evacuated besides about five lakh huts were drowned.

For taking immediate relief measures and for repairing roads, culverts and bridges, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sought from the Central Government a financial assistance of nearly Rs. 3,500 crore. I urge upon the Central Government for early release of sufficient funds to Tamil Nadu.

Instead of taking relief measures after the flood havoc, permanent steps should be taken at regular intervals by desilting river mouth, strengthening of bunds and deepening of rainfed tanks so that the entire flood water is directed to rainfed tanks. Since the cyclones and floods are recurring phenomenon, I once again urge upon the Central Government to take concrete, permanent and constructive steps to save the people and crops from the havoc of floods.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Smt. Tejasvini Gowda – not present. Shri Atma Singh Gill – not present.